been prepared and that of Patna and Carnac Bunder (CST Mumbai) has been taken up. For other stations Railway were advised to take up preliminary activities.

**Katara-Banihal rail link segment**

3170. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the time schedule for completing the rail alignment between Katara and Banihal, including constructing the mega-arch bridge over the river Chenab;

(b) whether there has been escalation in cost for this rail link segment over the original estimated cost; and

(c) if so, whether it is attributable only to inflation and rise in cost of material, or there are other significant factors like changes in the original planning from time-to-time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (c) Railway alignment between Katra-Banihal, including the alignment over river Chenab has been reviewed by the Expert Committee. The recommendations of the Committee are under consideration of the Ministry. Time schedule and cost of the project can be ascertained after final decision is taken by the Ministry on the report of the Committee.

**Train operation**

†3171. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the situation of train operation is worse at present;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has prescribed any policy to improve the situation of train operation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) Improvement of train operation is an ongoing process depending upon modernization of technology, development of infrastructure facilities, improvement in factors beyond railways control such as weather, law and order, agitations etc.

**Running of non-stop trains on existing tracks**

3172. SHRI SHYAMAL CHAKRABORTY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the existing rail tracks are capable of running non-stop trains, as proposed in the rail budget;

(b) if not, whether there are any decision for changing or upgradation of the existing rail tracks;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.